

One of the things you probably saw your House of Representatives do this last week was pass a 90 percent tax on the bonuses that went to AIG executives after the insurance giant received taxpayer dollars. Such taxation is known as a bill of attainder; in other words, the legislative branch is punishing citizens without a trial. The Congress is specifically forbidden to pass bills of attainder under Article 1 Section 9 of the Constitution. That is why I opposed the taxation. In seeking to deal with the AIG bonus problem, it is absolutely vital that Congress not set bad precedents that could lead to Congress targeting individuals for legislative punishment through the tax code. To view my speech urging my colleagues to vote against the bill of attainder andmy interview discussing the 90 percent tax on AIG bonuses with Chris Matthews on Hardball, please click here.

A clause in the stimulus bill explicitly protected these bonus payments. Before anyone could discover the clause in the 1,000-plus page bill, the House Leadership brought the legislation to the floor for a vote. The clause protecting these payments should never have been added to the stimulus package and the bonuses should never have been paid using taxpayer dollars. I fought in the Judiciary Committee to remove this language from the stimulus law by way of an amendment. I also introduced a separate bill early this week that would strike the clause from the the law (you can find the text of the legislatiohere).

Although economic recovery must be the top priority in this session of Congress, I am also working on two bills dealing with nuclear weapons.

The first is a bill I re-introduced with Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) to reduce our nuclear stockpiles. Possessing close to 95 percent of the world's nuclear warheads, the United States and Russia must lead the way in securing the world's nuclear weapons. Our resolution would express that the United States and Russia should negotiate

Location

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reductions in their respective to 1,000 deployed weapons and 3,000 total by 2015. It also calls for the enhancement of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program (Nunn-Lugar) by an additional \$1 billion per year. The Nunn-Lugar program secures and dismantles weapons of mass destruction in former Soviet Union states.

Finally, I had the privilege of managing the Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act when the full House debated it this past Tuesday. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), would add another layer to our defense against terrorism. It will fortify our national capabilities in technical nuclear forensics, a science that plays a key role in the attribution of nuclear material to its source. This legislation will re-invigorate the scientific workforce and improve our defenses against nuclear and radiological terrorism. I am happy to report that the House passed this legislation by a 402-16 vote.

I continue to be honored to represent your interests in Washington, DC and welcome your insight and comments. If my office can be of assistance, please call. My district office is right here in Gold River and can be reached at (916) 859-9906.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Lungren Member of Congress

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